

To: Environment Committee

From: Harry D. Ward, Director of Parks, Town of Watertown, CT

RE: SB-443 AN ACT CONCERNING PESTICIDES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS.

Date: March 17, 2014

Please accept the following short statement as my testimony in regard to SB-443 AN ACT CONCERNING PESTICIDES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS, AND MUNICIPAL GREENS.

Please be aware that I am very opposed to any new legislature that prohibits the use of synthetic or organic pesticides and amendments on any public grounds. These so-called organic methods of pest control are ineffective and the recommended organic amendments which provide nutrients to our athletic fields are exorbitantly expensive. This legislature will create a burden on both the taxpayer and cause our athletic fields to fall into disrepair when the taxpayer refuses to pay for the additional costs attributed to the so-called organic plan. As professional licensed applicators we must have the ability to select the least toxic, most cost effective EPA registered pesticide available, regardless if it is synthetic or organic.